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Statement submitted by International Federation for Home Economics, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The sustainable development goals will expand on the Millennium Development Goals and will take into account the three dimensions of sustainable development. The 17 proposed new sustainable development goals include the most important global challenges and will be applicable to all developed and developing countries. They are people centred and focus on dignity, prosperity, justice, partnerships and the environment.

The transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals will require analysis of how to implement approaches to reach these goals. As the new goals are more detailed, it makes sense to analyse different levels of systems, in which people organise their everyday lives including their capacity for future sustainable development.

The household is the basic institution for managing people's lives. From a home economics perspective, the family is seen as the core of the household and critical to the community, society and the economy at large. Achieving many of the sustainable development goals depend directly on the behaviour of household members and their performance in resource management including the management of human resources.

In households, decisions are made about healthy and sustainable lifestyles, nutrition and the wellbeing of household members. The use of natural resources and energy in households has a major impact on the development of the natural environment. As capacities and choices at the basic level for individuals and households impacts local and global systems, there is a need to develop a new awareness regarding ecological, economic and social challenges at the household level in all countries.

Historically governments and stakeholders in business, industry and the economy have determined the basic conditions for families, individuals and communities around the world. In addition to these prevailing conditions, which include, basic education, health care systems, infrastructure and job opportunities, individuals should be empowered through everyday life education in home economics including sustainable behaviour to reach their full capacity for their own development.

Expanding the development goals and focusing on people and people's dignity all over the world can empower individuals to provide valuable input and partner on actions for sustainable development.

Projects around the world should focus on food production and nutrition, maternal and family health, capacity building, resource management as well as income-generation opportunities and thus demonstrate that people's empowerment is fundamental to reach the sustainable development goals.

The International Federation for Home Economics strongly recommends the use of Home Economics education to support a successful transition to the sustainable development goals.